

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 1/11/49 at 11:00 a.m.

Week Ending 1/10/49

WEATHER One of the worst blizzards in history occurred over the western third of the State early in the week with very large snow drifts, but the storm was not nearly so severe in the south-central portion and heavy rain fell over the eastern portion. Light to locally moderate snow fell over the State during the week-end. Temperatures were considerably above normal during the middle of the week, but the beginning and close were cold. Strong northerly winds blew on several days, with gales in the western portion of the State on the 4th and 5th.

December was rather cold, with more than the normal snowfall.

LIVESTOCK Information on livestock losses resulting from the storm were fragmentary and more or less indefinite up to Saturday. There is a considerable difference in opinion and it may be some time before definite information can be obtained. Reports from some counties in the western range area where the storm was most severe are as follows: "BOX BUTTE - Care of livestock and range herds has been the chief concern since the blizzard. Livestock losses expected to average about 1%. MORRILL - Definite count of livestock losses can not be made until drifts have melted but so far losses seem to be relatively low. Airplanes used to spot livestock and people in distress. SCOTTS BLUFF - Subzero weather and high winds with gusts of 60 mph. prevailed for nearly 3 days with 19 inches of snow. Feed yard drifts up to 15 feet, death losses in feed lots and on range still undetermined, estimated at 2%. Heavy losses in feed lots due to shrinkage because little feed was available. BROWN - Farm reports indicate that some ranchers may lose a half of their cattle due to the recent storm, but definite figures not available. GARFIELD - Ranges, windrow hay covered with snow, making haying of cattle difficult. So far no big cattle losses reported. THOMAS - Worst blizzard since the late 1800s. Heavy loss of cattle feared. Ranchers unable to get feed to cattle on winter ranges for 3 days. Digging out deep snowdrifts to find cattle that drifted with the storm. BOYD - One of the worst blizzards ever reported in this area. Stock losses light, but feed supply dangerously low. No travel except by team or horseback. VALLEY - 3 days of mild weather following blizzard enabled ranchers to haul hay for cattle. No losses reported in this area. Present forage supplies ample but continued severe weather may cause shortage later. CHASE - Livestock loss estimated \$20,000. Air service used to bring supplies to isolated farmers. Feed plentiful but difficult to move. DUNDY - Blizzard put cattle in poor condition. Hogs suffered also, with some lost in the storm. A few newly born calves lost. Definite information on cattle losses not available. HAYES - Stockmen must rely upon feed reserves, as wheat pastures and range are buried under the snow. KEITH - Storm was severe on livestock, but so far very little death loss reported. LINCOLN - Loss of livestock not fully appraised, but probably not as heavy as anticipated. Some cattle marooned by snow have no doubt shrunk. Many rural people snowbound and Red Cross handling urgent needs by airplane. PERKINS - Worst snowstorm in years. Livestock losses continue to mount as reports come in. Wild life losses will be heavy. FRONTIER - Snow drifted badly. Livestock feed will be big problem."

In the balance of the State, livestock losses are generally reported light, but there was more or less difficulty in getting feed supplies. Stormy weather for some time has reduced availability of feed from range, but has increased the consumption of hay and forage. There is considerable apprehension as to whether feed supplies will be adequate if the stormy weather continues much longer.

CROPS The storm brought heavy precipitation, mostly rain, in the eastern portion.

It is believed most of this moisture will be absorbed because the ground was frozen underneath the previous snow. This should improve the soil moisture situation greatly, also the outlook for winter wheat in eastern Nebraska. Reports from the heavy blizzard area are that most of the snow blew off the wheat fields. Corn stalk fields held the snow. The moisture situation in corn fields should be improved greatly. Returns indicate that 7% of the corn is still unhusked and it appears that part of this will now remain unhusked until spring.

Stocks of corn are high with 188,579,000 bushels as of January 1 and wheat stocks nearly 30 million bushels. About two-thirds of the oats and three-fourths of the barley crop was on farms January 1. (Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture.)

1450-1-11-49
WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 10, 1949.

Eastern Division

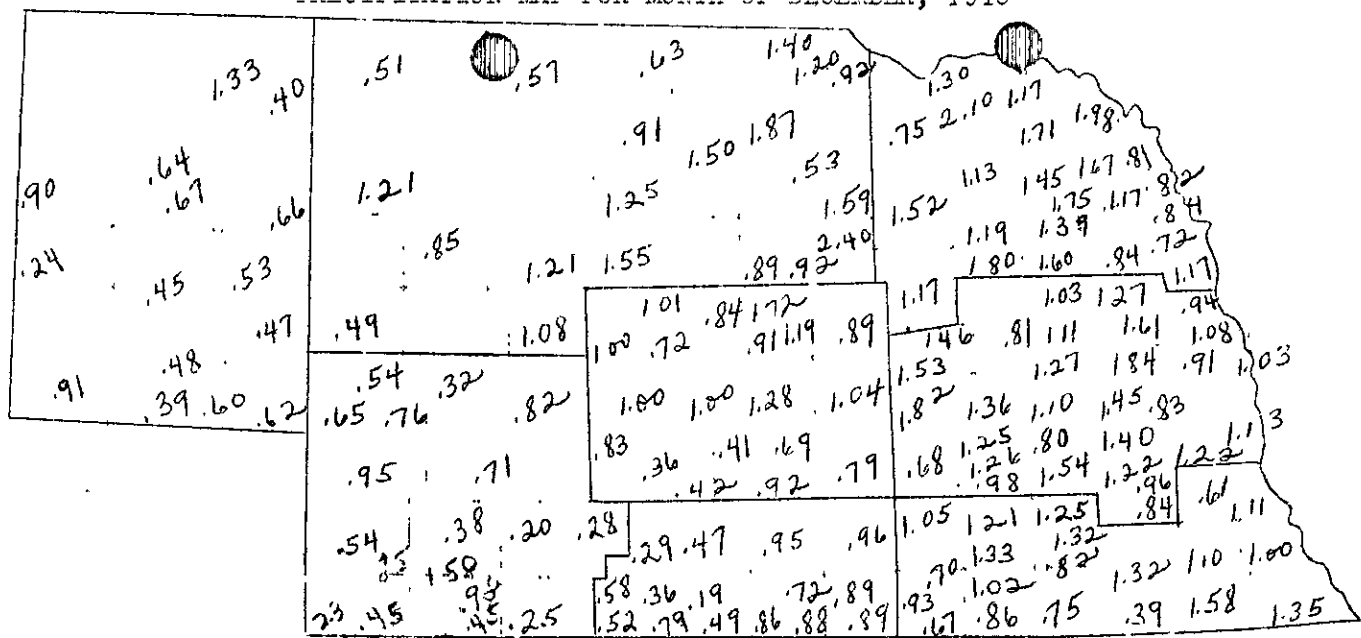
Grand Island	.35
Lincoln	1.40
Norfolk	1.28
Omaha	1.30
Sioux City	1.16

Central Division

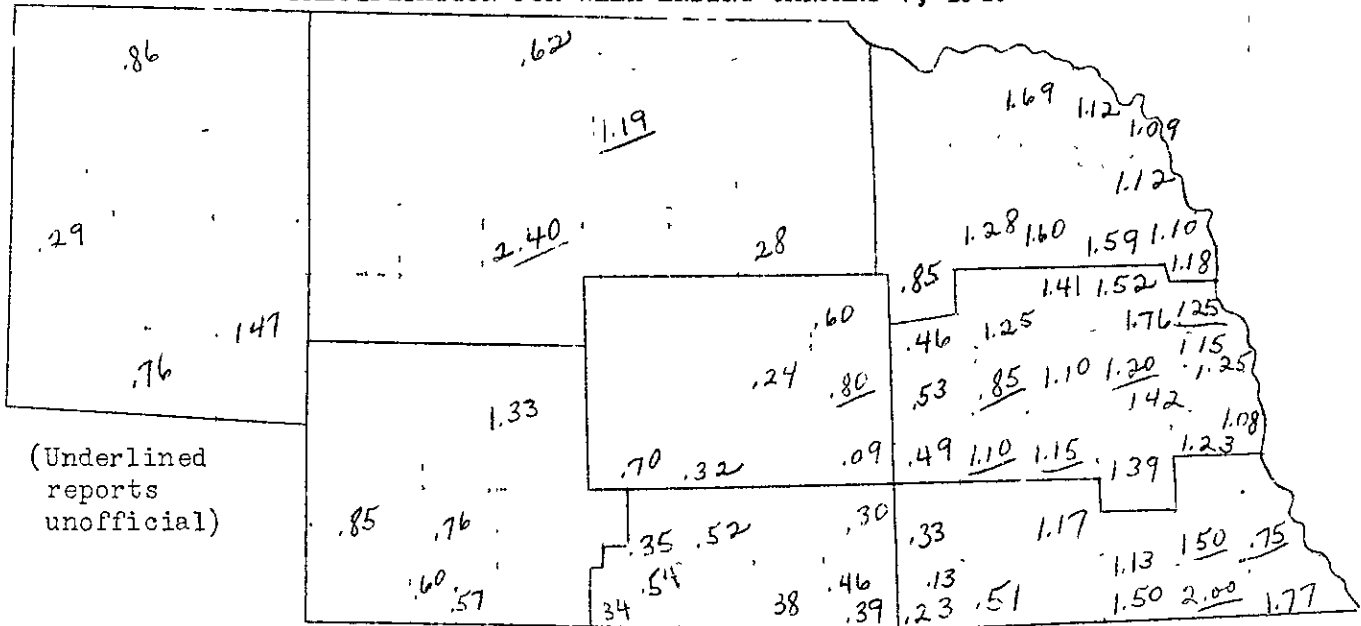
Burwell	.28
North Platte	1.36
Valentine	.49

Western Division

Chadron	.67
Hayes Center	.72
Scottsbluff	.33
Sidney	.63



PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 7, 1949



(Underlined
reports
unofficial)

HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (For 24 hrs. ending 6:30 a.m.)

		Jan.		4th		5th		6th		7th		8th		9th		10th	
				Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	-2	-2	11	8	29	17	38	20	42	19	34	-4	5	-8		
	Scottsbluff	3	--	11	8	23	11	37	20	42	18	39	3	--	-6		
	Sidney	5	-3	9	5	27	10	39	17	44	16	40	4	5	-4		
N-C	Burwell	--	--	--	--	28	17	42	26	47	8	40	-4	-2	-5		
	Valentine	9	-2	13	1	28	21	40	30	43	28	34	-6	3	-7		
NE	Norfolk	34	10	34	10	28	13	38	28	42	21	37	-4	7	-2		
	Sioux City	36	22	37	5	28	20	39	25	46	28	39	3	13	3		
Cen.	Grand Island	32	2	--	--	30	22	39	28	40	18	40	0	12	-2		
	Lincoln	35	14	30	9	31	24	39	32	42	32	40	3	17	5		
SW	Omaha	41	22	41	8	30	20	42	31	49	31	44	9	19	8		
	Hayes Center	19	0	9	5	--	22	39	29	46	22	43	7	10	-3		
	North Platte	15	1	15	1	30	18	40	22	43	12	40	4	9	-4		

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